

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

21/105	Reading	D	379
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Reading

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)
Reading Highlands

Photograph



Address: 145 High Street

Historic Name: Dudley Hunt House

Uses: Present: residential (two-family)
 Original: residential (single-family)

Date of Construction: 1885

Source: *Chronicle*, April 18, 1885

Style/Form: Queen Anne/Stick Style

Architect/Builder: Horace G. Wadlin, architect/
David C. Temple, builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation: granite

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard, asbestos shingle, wood

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

1932- carriage house moved forward on lot and converted to house (now 149 High Street – separate property)
 20th c. – asbestos shingles on 2nd story obscure some Stick Style and shingled detailing

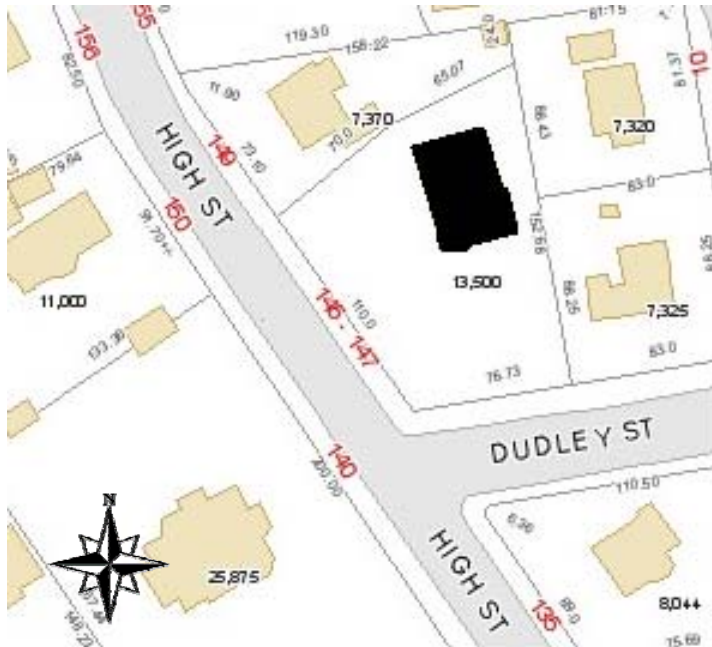
Condition: fair (due to siding)

Moved: no | x | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 0.31 acre

Setting: mixed residential neighborhood

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Reading Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): December 2009

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Located at the corner of High and Dudley Streets, 145 High Street is a late 19th century residence combining aspects of the Queen Anne and Stick styles. The asymmetrical 2½-story house is set on a granite foundation and is notable for retaining a slate roof. The varied profile includes a hip roof at the core intersected by a prominent corner tower with conical roof and several gables. Tall, decorative brick chimneys added to the variety but have been reduced in height. Originally the house was more clearly Stick Style in its influence – sheathed primarily in wood clapboards with an overlay of stickwork above and below the windows on both the first and second floor. Today asbestos shingles cover the second story, obscuring the original stickwork as well as areas of patterned wood shingles between the stories and in the gables. Important intact features include the entrance porch at the base of the tower which displays a shingled gable with decorative panel and raking, elaborate turned porch posts and balusters, trusses and brackets. The bay window facing the street is capped by a shed roof and retains some of its original stickwork. At the top of the gable is a simple truss and panels and brackets decorate the tower cornice. The windows contain modern, double-hung 1/1 units and replace original 2/1 sash. A multi-light horizontal window at the top of the west gable has also been removed and replaced by a simpler, modern window and its original decorative surround is no longer visible.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This house (formerly 129 High Street) was constructed in 1885 for Dudley Hunt, a liquor dealer in Boston. It was designed by local architect Horace G. Wadlin and built by carpenter David C. Temple. Dudley Hunt was born in Maine in January 1845. Census records indicate that he lived here with his wife, Amanda, and several servants. Dudley Hunt was a Mason, a Shriner, president of the Reading Athletic Club, and a member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. He died in 1918 although his widow continued to live here for a number of years. Amanda was living here in 1920 with an attendant and servant. She was renting part of the house out to John Crowley. The property was later owned by Ada Hunt, Dudley's sister. It is still used as a two-family today.

The carriage house of the property was moved forward on the lot and converted into a house (the present 149 High Street) in 1932.

Architect Horace G. Wadlin (1851-1925) was one of Reading's most respected and influential citizens. He received his education in the public schools and by private instruction and studied the profession of architecture, opening his own practice in Boston in 1874. He became an attaché of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor in 1879, was supervisor of the U.S. Census in 1890 and later Librarian of the Boston Public Library. He served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in the 1880s, was a member of the School Committee in Reading, a trustee of the Reading Public Library, and a prolific author on history and economics. He designed educational buildings at Saco and Biddeford, Maine, the Richard Sugden Library at Spencer, schools and public buildings in Reading, and a number of private residences in Reading including his own home at 206 Woburn Street (1892) and the houses at 199 Summer Avenue (1878) and 216 Woburn Street (1890).

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Reading 350th Book Committee. *At Wood End – Reading, Massachusetts 1644-1994, A Pictorial History*, 1994: 39.



Source: Chester W. and Warren Eaton (eds). *Memorial Volume of Ancient Redding, Comprising Wakefield, Reading and North Reading*. Reading: Loring & Twombly Publishers, 1896, p. 157.